person who answers the call (see Appendix A). It is first established whether the number is to a private residence. An eligible household is a housing unit that has a separate entrance, where occupants eat separately from other persons on the property, and that is occupied by its members as their principal or secondary place of residence. Non-eligible households include: (1) vacation homes not occupied by household members for more than 30 days per year; (2) group homes (e.g., sororities and fraternities, halfway houses, shelters); and (3) institutions (e.g., nursing homes, college dormitories).

The CATI system randomly selects one adult in the household to be interviewed. Eligible respondents include members currently living in the household that are 18 years of age and older (including all related adults 18 years old or older, unrelated adults, roomers, and domestic workers who consider the household their home, even though they may not be home at the time of the call). Household members do not include adult family members who are currently living elsewhere. If more than one eligible adult currently lives in the household then one respondent is randomly selected through a pre-programmed process in the CATI data entry system used by each interviewer. The interviewer must make every attempt to interview the respondent selected and not simply interview the person who answers the phone.

All BRFSS respondents with children under the age of 18 living in their households are invited to participate in the NC CHAMP survey. Appendix D presents sample sizes and response rates for 2005–2009, including the number of adults completing the NC BRFSS, proportion reporting a child under the age of 18 living in the household, and proportion who agreed to participate in a follow-up survey on child health.

CONFIDENTIALITY

SCHS staff, including supervisors, coordinators, and interviewers, receive training on the importance of confidentiality. Interviewers are trained to respect confidentiality, assure respondents that their confidentiality is protected, and refrain from discussing details of specific interviews outside the work environment. In order to ensure confidentiality, NC CHAMP data do not contain any direct personal identifiers and respondent data are combined (i.e., aggregate statistical reporting). NC CHAMP data users sign a confidentiality agreement before receiving a public use dataset that is stripped of personal identifiers and only contains a unique identification number for each participant.

Weighting

The sample design used to collect the data introduces a complexity to data analysis. Failing to account for this complexity will result in biased parameter estimates and incorrect variance estimates. Analyses must correct for design effects and unequal probability of selection to ensure that results are representative with unbiased estimates. Several computer programs are available that provide the capability of variance estimation for complex sample designs (e.g., SUDAAN, STATA, SAS). In NC CHAMP, each sampled child is assigned a sampling weight, stratum identifier and primary sampling unit (PSU) code. It is necessary to include these variables when conducting data analyses and tests of statistical hypotheses.

NC CHAMP data are weighted to reflect the demographic characteristics of the North Carolina population (available at: www.census.gov/popest/estimates.html). The use of weighted data adjusts the results of the sample to better represent the entire population of North Carolina. Adjustments are made to account for the unequal probabilities of selection due to the disproportionate sampling method and due to people living in households with different numbers of residential telephone numbers and different numbers of children in the home, as well as unequal non-response rates among different demographic groups. For example, if parents of children under five constitute 10 percent of the sample respondents, but this group represents 8 percent of the total population of the state, then a factor of 0.80 would be entered into the last weighting process for these respondents to account for this discrepancy.

The following weighting formula is used to calculate the final sampling weight assigned to each child (WTFACTOR):

WTFACTOR =
STRWT * 1 OVER NPH * CHILDREN * POSTCH

Variables in the weighting formula include: STRWT = accounts for differences in the basic probability